

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1447

By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Steve Godsey on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Steve Godsey is one such distinguished public servant whose illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 104th General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Godsey has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 1st House District and all of Sullivan County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the 1st House District evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Steve Godsey in 1996, by electing him as their representative to the Tennessee General Assembly, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his five terms in the House of Representatives, he has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, born on June 25, 1955, Steve Godsey graduated from Tennessee High School and attended Bristol College; and

WHEREAS, Representative Steve Godsey is a dynamic and active participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions and service during the 100th – 104th General Assemblies; he has astutely served as a member of the Education Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Transportation Committee, the K-12 Subcommittee, the Public Safety and Rural Roads Subcommittee, and the Small Business Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, Representative Godsey was appointed Chairman of the Jobs, Economic Development and Industrial Recruitment Task Force of the Republican House Caucus in 2003 and elected Chairman of the Northeast Tennessee Caucus in 2005; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Steve Godsey has given his time and energies to many community, civic, and charitable organizations, including the Blountville Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and the March of Dimes; he has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Blountville Community Chest; and

WHEREAS, for his unparalleled devotion to public service and his constituents, Representative Godsey has received numerous awards and honors, a testament to the honesty, integrity, and overall exemplary character and devotion with which he has performed his duties as a servant of the people; and

WHEREAS, the prime sponsor of numerous pieces of legislation concerning victims' rights, child safety, anti-crime topics, and tax relief, Representative Steve Godsey was named Legislator of the Year by the Burgess Mills Fraternal Order of Police in 2005 and received special recognition from the Tennessee State Employees Association in 2004 for his consistent support of state employees and their issues; and

WHEREAS, the very epitome of the American entrepreneurial spirit, Steve Godsey is a talented, astute, and productive small business owner; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Representative Steve Godsey is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Julie; their marriage has been blessed with two wonderful children, Stephanie and Andrew; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Steve Godsey is an active member of the Virginia Avenue Baptist Church, which he has faithfully served for many years. In his free time, Representative Godsey shares his God-given talent for singing by performing at churches throughout Northeast Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Steve Godsey's retirement from the General Assembly will leave a void that will not easily be filled, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of the 1st House District; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our respected friend and colleague, Representative Steve Godsey; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that that we hereby honor Representative Steve Godsey on his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 1st House District and Sullivan County, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.